

# **User's Guide for the Interviewer Observations File and Codebook Documentation**

## **Special file covering 2011–2015 of the National Survey of Family Growth**

### **Introduction**

The User's Guide describes and documents a special data file that contains responses from *interviewers* who conducted interviews that took place from 2011-2015 for the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). The interviewers responded to a short questionnaire asking about the respondent and the interview setting. The following is a brief background on the NSFG and a description of how and when the Interviewer Observations data were collected.

The University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research (ISR), under contract to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), conducted interviews for the National Survey of Family Growth, beginning in September 2011 and ongoing at this writing. Public use datasets were released for the 2011-2013 field period and for the 2013-2015 field period. These Interviewer Observation data are from interviews conducted during the entire four year period: September 2011 through September 2015. At any given time, between 38 and 50 interviewers were in the field. In total, ISR employed 114 interviewers during the entire four-year field period.

The interviewers conducted in-person interviews with men and women ages 15-44, completing interviews with 5,601 women and 4,815 men in the 2011-2013 NSFG and 5,699 women and 4,506 men in the 2013- 2015 NSFG. The survey was administered using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), in which the interviewer asked the questions and entered the answers into a computer, and audio computer-assisted self interviewing (ACASI), in which the respondent used the computer to read (and/or listen to) the questions and enter his or her answers into the computer.

During the ACASI portion of the survey, which occurred at the end of the questionnaire, the interviewer filled out a paper questionnaire called the Interview Observation Form (available in this document). This allowed her to occupy the time during which the respondent was reading and answering questions on the computer, and also enabled the collection of valuable information. The Interview Observation Form contained questions on aspects of the interview such as where it was conducted, the atmosphere during the interview, physical or mental impairments of the respondent, and the degree of cooperation from the respondent. These items provide data useful for survey planning and management, for evaluating data quality, and for assessing the effectiveness of interviewer training.

### **Interviewer Observations Data File and Documentation**

The Interviewer Observations data file and codebook documentation are available through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC) only, due to potentially increased risk of disclosure

associated with data on observable characteristics of the respondent. The data are available as a SAS data file.

Documentation available:

- A variable index listing every variable on the file with a brief description
- A codebook containing question text, response categories and frequencies, and a universe statement (i.e., the conditions under which the question was applicable) for every variable
- The Interview Observation Form (the paper questionnaire used in the field)

The 2011-2015 Interviewer Observations data file is intended to be used in conjunction with the NSFG public use data files. The Interviewer Observation data file contains a case ID that is common to the case ID on the female and male files for 2011-2013 and on the female and male files for 2013-2015. Thus different datasets can be created through merging, for various analytic purposes. The 2011-2015 Interviewer Observations file also contains Quarter of interview and a variable for gender of the respondent, allowing differentiation by public release and by male/female, within the four-year file. Weights for both two-year files and for a four-year file are available. To obtain weighted national estimates or accurate variance estimates, the user must request that the weighting and sample design variables be merged from the public-use files or the four-year weight file. The user is referred to the User's Guide for the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 NSFG Public Use Files, on the NSFG website for descriptions of the data preparation procedures, sample design, and coding conventions. Documentation of the details of the methodology of the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 NSFGs is also available on the website [*link to "Design and Data Collection Methods" within the 2013-2015 page*].

If you have questions about any of these materials, please contact NSFG staff at [nsfg@cdc.gov](mailto:nsfg@cdc.gov) or 301-458-4222.

Data Note:

For 58 cases, the Interviewer Observation Form was not filled out. These cases are coded "not ascertained" (7 or 97) on every variable in the data file.